

5 April 2024

## Spinal Cord Injury 2023

- Please can you provide the number of people who sustained a spinal cord injury in Northern Ireland in 2023 (or if you don't have the number, the number of referrals - how many were accepted and how many refused)
- The ages of the individuals
- The time as inpatients

The following information is held by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for patients admitted to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit in Musgrave Park Hospital:

Number of discharges with a diagnosis of Spinal Cord Injuries recorded during the time period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 (from the Spinal Cord Injury Unit):

Please note this does not include patients who were managed in the regional spinal ward in the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) but who did not require inpatient admission to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit in Musgrave Park Hospital. Belfast Trust is unable to identify patients discharged directly from RVH as to provide this information would involve a manual process that would take more than 18 hours.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

2023	Spinal Cord Injuries Discharges
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>

Age Group	Spinal Cord Injuries Discharges
20-64	29
65+	27
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>56</b>

2023	Spinal Cord Injuries - Average of Length of Spell
<b>Average</b>	<b>45.88</b>

Note: Average of Length of Spell is the amount of days from Date of Admission to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit, to Discharge Date.

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- **The cause of injury**
- **The level of injury**

Belfast Trust is unable to collate details of the cause of injury and level of injury without undertaking a trawl of each individual patient chart. This would take more than 18 hours.

Again, the Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12.